

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8: (Cancelled).

Claim 9: (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving from a control unit at a mobile hand-held device of a plurality of mobile hand-held devices programming information including an electronic programming guide (EPG) via a wireless connection, wherein interactions received at the mobile hand-held device are transmitted to at least one other mobile hand-held device of the plurality of mobile hand-held devices;

receiving, at the mobile hand-held device, a selection of a program from the EPG, wherein the programming information is displayed on a display of the mobile hand-held device;

transmitting the selection of the program to the control unit;

receiving, subsequent to the selection of the program from the EPG, a signal from the control unit indicating a beginning of an interactive application during the selected program; and

in response to the signal, providing a visual indication, through the mobile hand-held device, of an availability of the interactive application, wherein the mobile hand-held device is configurable to selectively deactivate visual indications on a display separate from the mobile hand-held device independently of whether visual indications are displayed on the display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 10: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein providing a visual indication of the availability of the interactive application includes displaying an indicator on a the display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 11: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein providing a visual indication of the availability of the interactive application includes changing one or more background colors of the display of the mobile hand-held device to indicate the availability of the interactive application.

Claim 12: (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein providing a visual indication of the availability of the interactive application includes ~~at least one button of the~~

~~mobile hand-held device~~ flashing at least one button of the mobile hand-held device to indicate the availability of the interactive application.

Claim 13: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the mobile hand-held device is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 14: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the mobile hand-held device is a web phone.

Claim 15: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising providing an additional indication of the availability of the interactive application including a sound generated by the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 16: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein providing a visual indication of the availability of the interactive application includes illuminating a section of the mobile hand-held device other than the display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 17: (Currently Amended) A tangible machine readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions for:

receiving, at a mobile hand-held device of a plurality of mobile hand-held devices, programming information including an electronic programming guide (EPG) via a wireless connection from a control unit, wherein interactions received at the mobile hand-held device is transmitted to at least one other mobile hand-held device of the plurality of mobile hand-held devices;

receiving, at the mobile hand-held device, a selection of a program from the EPG, wherein the programming information is displayed on a display of the mobile hand-held device; transmitting the selection of the program to the control unit;

receiving, subsequent to the selection of the program from the EPG, a signal from the control unit indicating a beginning of an interactive application during the selected program; and

in response to the signal, providing a visual indication, through the mobile hand-held device, of an availability of the interactive application, wherein the mobile hand-held device is

configurable to selectively deactivate visual indications on a display separate from the mobile hand-held device independently of whether visual indications are displayed on the display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 18: (Currently Amended) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive application includes displaying an indicator on ~~a~~ the display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 19: (Previously Presented) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 18, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive application includes changing one or more background colors of the display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 20: (Previously Presented) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 18, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive application includes illumination of at least one button of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 21: (Previously Presented) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the mobile hand-held device is a personal digital assistant.

Claim 22: (Previously Presented) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the mobile hand-held device is a web phone.

Claim 23: (Previously Presented) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive application includes generating a sound by the mobile hand-held device to indicate the availability of the interactive application.

Claim 24: (Previously Presented) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive application includes illuminating a section of the mobile hand-held device other than the display.

Claim 25: (Previously Presented) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive application is performed during a display of the program on a display separate from the plurality of mobile hand-held devices.

Claim 26: (Cancelled).

Claim 27: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the interactions received at the mobile hand-held device includes user comments.

Claim 28: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the signal is received after a start of the selected program.

Claim 29: (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the interactive application is not available prior to the beginning of the interactive application.

Claim 30: (Previously Presented) The tangible machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the interactive application is not available prior to the beginning of the interactive application.

Claim 31: (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a processor; and
memory storing computer readable instructions that when executed, cause the apparatus to:

receive programming information including an electronic programming guide (EPG) via a wireless connection from a control unit, wherein interactions received at the apparatus is transmitted to at least one other apparatus of a plurality of apparatuses associated with the control unit;

_____receiving a selection of a program from the EPG, wherein the programming information is displayed on a display of the apparatus;

_____transmitting the selection of the program to the control unit;

_____ ~~receiving~~receive, subsequent to the selection of the program from the EPG, a signal from the control unit indicating a beginning of an interactive application during the selected program; and

_____ in response to the signal, ~~providing~~provide a visual indication of an availability of the interactive application, wherein the mobile hand-held device is configurable to selectively deactivate visual indications on a display separate from the mobile hand-held device independently of whether visual indications are displayed on the display of the mobile hand-held device.

Claim 32: (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein indicating the availability of the interactive application is performed during a display of the program on a display separate from the plurality of mobile hand-held devices.

Claim 33: (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein whether the visual indication of the availability of the interactive application is provided to the display separate from the plurality of apparatuses devices is configurable through the apparatus.

Claim 34: (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the apparatus comprises a mobile hand-held device.

Claims 35-42: (Cancelled).